



The Parish Newsletter

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". Mt. 28:19

Sunday June 21 – Sunday June 28 2020

ORDINARY TIME

Today, June 21st, is the twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

There is something desperately dull about the prospect of week after week of green vestments stretching into the future. But then, all human life is like that. After the party, or the holiday, or the exam success, we come back in the end to the old routine of putting out the rubbish and making sure there will be milk for breakfast tomorrow.

Ordinary Time is repetitive for a purpose and the green vestments signify something immensely important to us. The colour green symbolises hope, just as the burning fire of love is symbolised by red. Green is the colour of growing things, and hope, like all that grows, is always new and always fresh. Liturgically, green is the colour of Ordinary Time because it is the season in which we are being neither especially penitent (in purple) nor overwhelmingly joyful (in white). Instead, the Spirit, having *come down* on us, is now living *in* us and acting *through* us. This offers a different kind of excitement from that of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost – not so much one of bustling about arranging celebrations, but quiet and thoughtful actions to grow our faith and allow the Spirit's presence within us to give us a sense of God's enduring love for us. It is a time too to look around and take time to savour the wonders and beauties of creation, now when Spring becomes Summer and the countryside flourishes in all its God-made glory.

As Gerald Manley Hopkins put it in **Pied Beauty**

Glory be to God for dappled things -
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced- fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:

Praise him.

Also it is an opportunity to reflect that:

Now joy-filled Easter
and Pentecost are done,
we hear, question and once more
learn who truly is this Son,
remembered, made real, honoured
through the unvarying rite
of Ordinary Time, whose
constancy shapes, guides our sight
towards Advent, Nativity and
Lenten eager expectation.
This plain Time's virtue lies not
in tedious repetition:
its rituals reveal threefold God's
eternal dance of loving care
through which we, ordinary folk,
everlasting joy may share.

From 'Ordinary Time' • Tom Caple 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

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Our Churches

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Notices

If you have information you want to appear in the Newsletter, please send to facaple@gmail.com by 12 noon on Wednesday.

Fr Luke writes: There has been much excitement in the news this last week about the possibility of opening churches for private prayer (See Tom’s article on front page). From this Monday, churches in England and Wales will be allowed to open for people to come in, alone, and pray. The regulations governing this are extremely prescriptive: private prayer excludes any form of liturgy, prayers in groups or anything that I as a priest might lead – including Adoration and Benediction. The regulations are comprehensive including the stipulation that one (but ideally two people) are on site all the time monitoring who is in the church. They also demand a rigorous cleaning of the building before and after each person enters. In larger parishes where the buildings are located centrally in towns and where there are teams of volunteers to help with this, the opening of churches makes sense. In our parish, however, it does not. We have two smallish church buildings one on the edge of town and the other on a housing estate which are usually locked between Masses and services. In our parish context the work that would need to be done to open our Churches is unmanageable and so I have taken the decision that **our church buildings will remain locked until such a time as we can return to worship at Mass and communal prayer.** Mass will continue to be streamed daily and I will continue to bring the Blessed Sacrament to you for Adoration and Benediction should you wish. If you do want to pray in a church both Newmarket and Thetford will be open at various points from next week. Please see their website for full details.

Remember the Food Bank

Food banks across the country have reported a significant drop in food contributions at a time when the number of people using them has grown significantly. Please remember **our Food Bank** when you shop!

Our Virtual Parish: Faith for Our Times

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Each Wednesday Fr Luke will be giving talks on aspects of our faith. These talks will be streamed live via Facebook **and** our website:

www.facebook.com/bmrcparish/live
stthomas-stjohnparish.com/

There will also be a time of Q & A where Questions can be submitted during the live feed via the comment sections and phone via the Presbytery. Missed a talk? The full series is available to ‘watch again’ via both our parish website and Facebook. Simply go to <https://stthomas-stjohnparish.com/> and click on the ‘faith talks’ tab at the top menu. Topics covered thus far:

- Faith and Reason
- Genesis, Evolution and the Big Bang!
- The Resurrection in scripture and Tradition
- The Eucharist: Real Presence
- The Church
- Problem of Evil
- Spiritual Warfare

Need a Gardener or a Cleaner?

Two Brandon parishioners are offering gardening and cleaning services, interested? Contact Fr Luke and he will put you in contact with them.

CORONAVIRUS

IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

With fragile health systems and challenges such as overcrowded housing and poor sanitary facilities, countries in the southern hemisphere are less prepared than those in the north to cope with threat of coronavirus. As elsewhere it will be the most vulnerable who are hit the hardest. A difference between north and south in the world is that there are far more vulnerable people in the southern hemisphere than in European, North Asian and North American countries. CAFOD has responded quickly with local experts already in those communities most in need. In addition, CAFOD has launched a campaign to petition the UK Government to ensure that the vulnerable and marginalised are priorities in the UK’s international efforts as well as at home. Please support this petition by going to www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus for details.

Can’t find Mass on Facebook? Don’t worry you can now just visit our website! The Facebook live-stream is now integrated with our parish website, **this means you can simply go to the parish website and see the live stream.**

The video will appear in a blue screen below the main logo. (on some devices it can take up to a minute to connect) If it doesn’t appear after a few minutes refresh the page. For those of you who are using Facebook and commenting please continue to do so as you can only interact with the page through Facebook.

Priest Availability - Fr Luke writes: My rest-day (day off) is usually on a Monday. Lockdown means that I cannot leave my home (and place of work) on my rest-day. Although I am currently streaming Mass on a Monday, I try not to do any other parish work or public ministry on this day. This means that (except of course for emergencies) I will not usually respond to phone calls, messages, or emails from Sunday late-afternoon/evening until Tuesday morning at the earliest. For non-urgent matters and general parish admin I would most grateful if you can contact the presbytery between Tuesday and Saturday. Thank you for help and understanding with this. God bless you.

THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

Monday 22 June: *SS John Fisher (1469 – 1535) & Thomas More (1478 – 1535)*

Both were martyred for opposing Henry VIII's decision to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, and pronouncing himself head of the Church of England. Both were very senior and important people in the government of England. St John was the Archbishop of Canterbury and St Thomas was Henry's Chancellor. Their stories have been told and retold many times, sometimes with accuracy, at other times as unfounded attempts to prove that these saints were rogues.

Tuesday 23 June: *Saint Etheldreda (636-679)*

Also known as Æthelthryth or **Audrey**, Born in Exning, she was an East Anglian princess, a Fenland and Northumbrian queen and Abbess of Ely Her father was King Anna of East Anglia, and her sisters were SS Wendreda and Seaxburh both of whom eventually founded abbeys.

Etheldreda founded a double monastery in Ely. These were destroyed in 870 by invading Danes.

Wednesday 24 June: *The Nativity of St John the Baptist*

The Nativity of John the Baptist is one of the oldest festivals of the Christian church, being listed by the Council of Agde in 506 as one of that region's principal festivals, where it was a day of rest and, like Christmas, was celebrated with three Masses: a vigil, at dawn, and at midday.

The Nativity of John the Baptist on June 24 comes three months after the celebration on March 25 of the Annunciation, and six months before the Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus. The purpose of these festivals is not to celebrate their exact dates, but simply to commemorate them in an interlinking way. The Nativity of John the Baptist anticipates the feast of Christmas.

LISTEN TO HOMILIES AS A PODCAST!

Fr Luke's homilies are loaded up shortly after the Sunday they are preached:

- visit <https://anchorfm/fr-luke-goymour/> or search on Spotify, Google, Apple or other major platforms.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community... and all those in our intercession books.

Marion Arkell, Frederick Clifford, Stephen Delahuntey, Mary Gillen, Darren Francis, Michael Murray, Sue Parsons, Michael Rooney, Bob Rider, Lou & Barb, and all suffering from the COVID-19 disease.

May the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, especially:

Edward Adams, Charles Aldrich, Gill Aldrech, Ian Allen, Eileen Armour, Patryk Borzuta, Sonia Buonocore, Catherine Bruce, Veronica Clifford, Thomas Cobbett, David Dallimore, Philip Dean,, Connie Doyle, Bernard English, Howard Fears, Mary Philomena Fortune, Egilda Rosina Gooch, Patricia Hardy, Queenie Harwood, George House, Bridhe Heron, Irene Human, Chester (Czestaw) Jureko, Julian Jureko, Violet Jureko,, Greg Kane, Edna Lovell, Joyce Lyons, Margaret McCloud, Mary Molloy, Herbert Moore, Brendan Neville, Bridie O'Brien, Anna O'Grady, Natalia Patynska, George Pearson, Ian Pearson, Beverley Pierce, Kenneth Pullen, Patricia Townsend, Linda Richmond, Peter Seekings-Foster, Paulo Silva, Christopher Patrick Tuohy, Liam Wales, John (Jack) Wiswell, Philomena Wiswell and all victims of COVID-19.

AMEN

Keeping the Parish Going

A huge 'thank you' to all of you who are giving in support our parish – we are surviving, thanks be God! Please do continue to give as your circumstances allow, our parish needs you!

As, ever here is a reminder of how you can do this:

1. By Standing Order or Direct Debit. Details of the parish's bank account are: -
 - a. Bank Name: Lloyds Bank plc
 - b. Bank Address: Thetford (309858) Branch
 - c. Sort Code: 30-98-58
 - d. Account Number: 00489176
2. By making a transfer from your bank account to the parish's, using the details above.
3. By sending a cheque to the parish made out to Brandon & Mildenhall RC Parish.

Please do not send cash

We suggest that you arrange these payments on a **monthly** basis, starting on the first Monday of each month.

THANK YOU for helping to keep the parish going.

Philip Kemp

Parish Treasurer

PARISH DIARY – TWELFTH WEEK OF THE YEAR

12 th Week of YR A, Psalter 4	Feast	Time, Place, Service www.facebook.com/bmrcparish/live and https://stthomas-stjohnparish.com/	Mass Intention/Details
Sunday 21 st June	TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11 AM Mass via Internet	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 22 nd June	SS JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE	10: AM Mass via internet	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Tuesday 23 rd June	ST ETHELDREDA	10 AM Mass via Internet	<i>Gaynor Fisher Int.</i>
Wednesday 24 th June	NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	10 AM Mass via Internet 7:30 PM Faith Talk	<i>Mario Vella RIP</i>
Thursday 25 th June	FERIA	10 AM Mass via Internet	<i>Anthony Refalo RIP</i>
Friday 26 th June	DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL	10 AM Mass via internet	<i>Fr Chris Brooks Int.</i>
Saturday 27 th June	FERIA	10 AM Mass via Internet	<i>Philomena Wiswell RIP</i>
Sunday 28 th June	SAINTS PETER AND PAUL	11 AM Mass via Internet	<i>People of the Parish</i>

N.B. Mass is celebrated in Fr Luke's Chapel and is available to view and follow online live at:

www.facebook.com/bmrcparish/live and <https://stthomas-stjohnparish.com/>